Conifers, planted on dozens of hectares outside their natural range, are drying up in Iasi

Ingka Investments' latest monitoring of the company's forest areas in Iasi county reveals a worrying development in the conifer forests in the area. Pine, fir and spruce trees on 87 hectares in Iasi County are either completely dried out or nearing that state.

The most critical situation is in Sirețel, where approximately 65 hectares of coniferous trees are severely affected. However, the phenomenon is also advancing in Frumușica and Popești***, with signs of deterioration increasing each year.

These conifers were planted in the 1970s and 1980s as part of forestry policies aimed at establishing artificial monocultures for short-cycle exploitation, primarily to supply the pulp and paper industry. Over time, these plantations—introduced outside the natural range of conifer species—have caused significant ecological imbalances. The composition of the native forests has been altered, and local ecosystems have suffered degradation.

Currently, the drying phenomenon is increasingly visible across 87 hectares of Ingka Investments' portfolio in Iași County. To mitigate further degradation and restore the area's ecosystems, Ingka specialists, in collaboration with external consultants, have developed a forest reconstruction plan. This plan involves the removal of non-native species through replacement logging and the reintroduction of native vegetation via afforestation and natural regeneration. The reforestation efforts will focus on planting native species such as oak, sycamore maple, and ash in place of conifers.

This sustainable forest management approach has already proven successful. Over the past decade, Ingka Investments has rehabilitated more than 115 hectares of forest in Iași County alone.

Restoration efforts will begin this spring, with continued monitoring to assess the progress and effectiveness of native species reintroduction.

****65 ha in UP XI Sirețel, 19.7 ha in UP XII Frumuşica and 2.5 ha in UP X Popești, with a total affected volume estimated at 6600 m3*